

President, but presume he does not intend it as I have heretofore tried and failed.

I write, not knowing if you have returned home, but trust that if you have you will answer immediately. I desire to visit Buncombe next week to get my books &c. & to rent my property there and am waiting for my brother⁴ who is daily expected home from New York.

Mrs. Vance's⁵ health [is] better than usual.

With Kind regards to your household, believe me, sincerely yours,

¹William Augustus Wright (1807-1878), a native of Wilmington, was a lawyer and banker. He represented New Hanover County in the Constitutional Convention of 1865 and was president of the council of state in 1865 and 1866. Grant, *Alumni History*, 698; John L. Cheney, Jr. (ed.), *North Carolina Government, 1585-1974: A Narrative and Statistical History . . .* (Raleigh: North Carolina Department of the Secretary of State, 1975), 180, 832, hereinafter cited as Cheney, *North Carolina Government*.

²After his defeat in the November, 1865, elections, former provisional governor William W. Holden resumed his editorship of the *North Carolina Standard* of Raleigh. Naturally he used that press to castigate his political foes. Thad Stem, Jr., *The Tar Heel Press* (Charlotte: Heritage Printers, Inc., 1973), 52, hereinafter cited as Stem, *Tar Heel Press*.

³President Andrew Johnson.

⁴Robert Brank Vance (1828-1899), of Buncombe County, received a common school education and, prior to 1861, engaged in mercantile and agricultural pursuits. He served the Confederacy ably, rising from captain to brigadier general. He was a Democratic congressman, 1873-1885, United States assistant commissioner of patents, 1885-1889, and a North Carolina legislator, 1894-1896. He was received by President Johnson because of an earlier encounter in which Vance had been of service to Johnson. Ashe, *Biographical History*, VI, 469-476; *Biographical Directory of Congress*, 1745.

⁵Harriett Newell Espy (1832-1878) married Zebulon B. Vance in 1853. Frontis W. Johnston (ed.), *The Papers of Zebulon Baird Vance* (Raleigh: State Department of Archives and History [projected multivolume series, 1963—]), I, 6n, hereinafter cited as Johnston, *Vance Papers*.

*William A. Graham to David L. Swain*¹ A&H: SWAIN

Hillsboro',
Jan'y 16th., 1866.

. . . My sons have been under the impression that their vacation lasted another week, and therefore did not return home 'till last week from a visit to their brother's in the West. I was called to Charlotte to bury my Sister Witherspoon, who died suddenly there of apoplexy, on the 30th. ult., and remained in that section 'till the 10th. inst. Hence I did not receive yours of the 1st. 'till that time. I should be much gratified yet to receive the visit you meditated.